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Insights into hours worked, October 2022

Released 17/11/2022

Source: [Labour Force, Australia, October 2022](#)

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The ABS will continue to monitor changes in hours worked and provide additional analysis when relevant.

Key findings

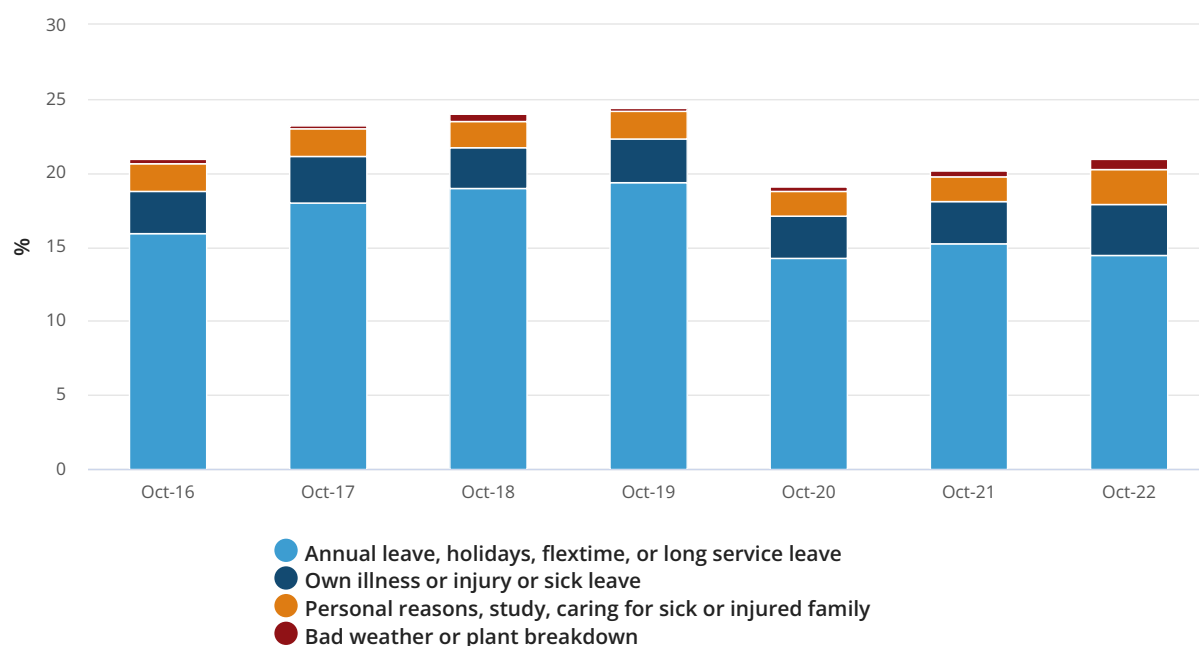
Hours worked increased by 43.2 million hours (2.3%) in seasonally adjusted terms between September and October 2022, and employment increased by 32,200 people (0.2%). The stronger growth in hours partly reflected fewer employed people than usual taking leave during October.

The October reference period coincided with school holidays and public holidays, worker absences associated with COVID-19 and other illnesses, and further flooding events in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. The last time the reference period aligned with the dates in October 2022 was October 2016.

Chart 1 shows the proportion of employed people working fewer hours than usual for the

four selected reasons in October. The number of people working fewer hours because they were sick was around 30% higher than we usually see in October, whereas less people than usual took annual leave over the same period.

Chart 1: Proportion of employed people who worked fewer than usual hours for selected reasons in October, Original

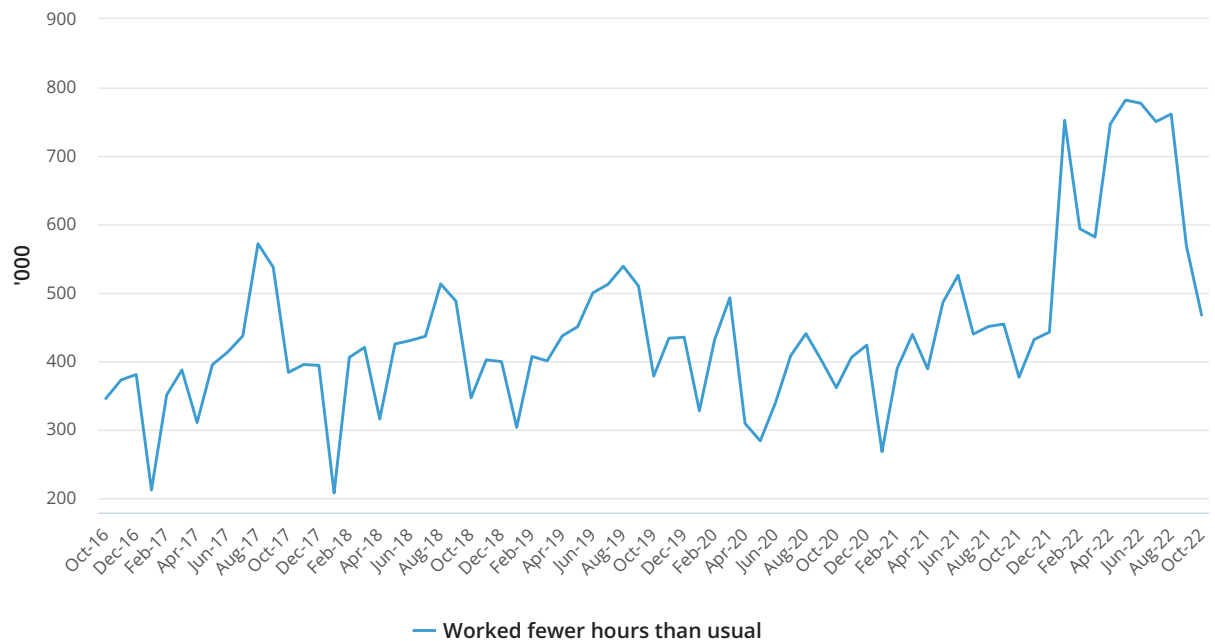


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a and Table 1

People working fewer hours than usual due to their own illness or injury or sick leave

Chart 2 shows the number of people working fewer hours due to illness decreased by 101,300 people to 467,100 people, between September and October 2022, down from the peak in the first half of 2022. October was the first month in 2022 where it was less than half a million people.

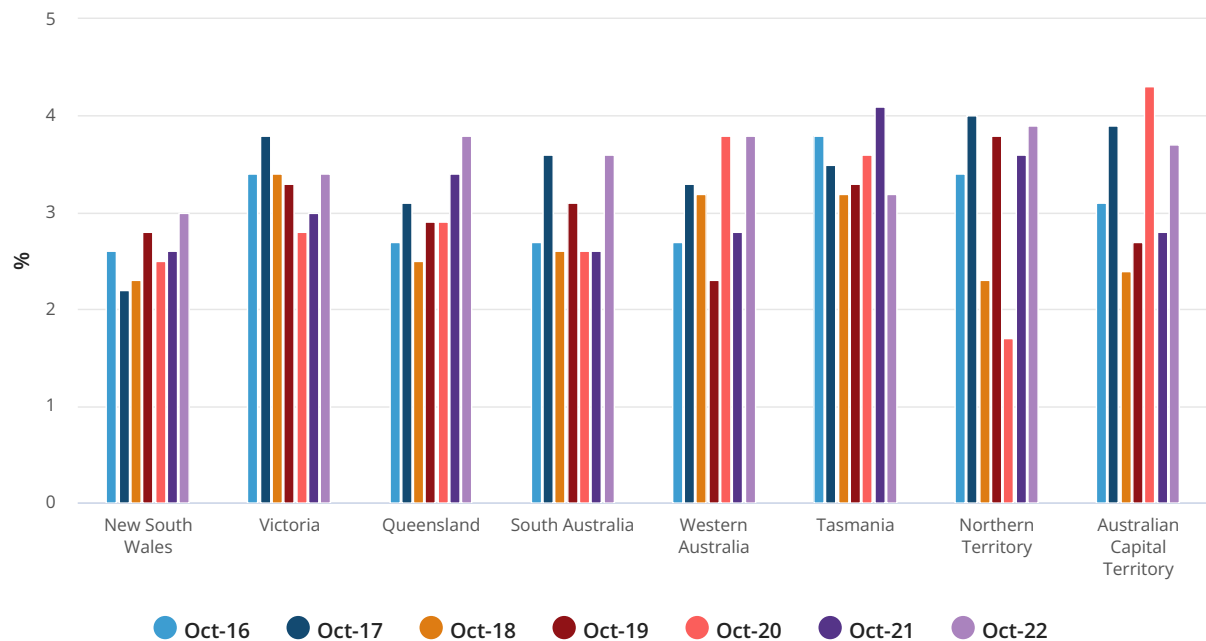
Chart 2: Employed people working fewer hours than usual due to own



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

Chart 3 shows the proportion of employed people working fewer hours due to illness in each state and territory.

Chart 3: Proportion employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to own illness or injury or sick leave, by state and territory, Original

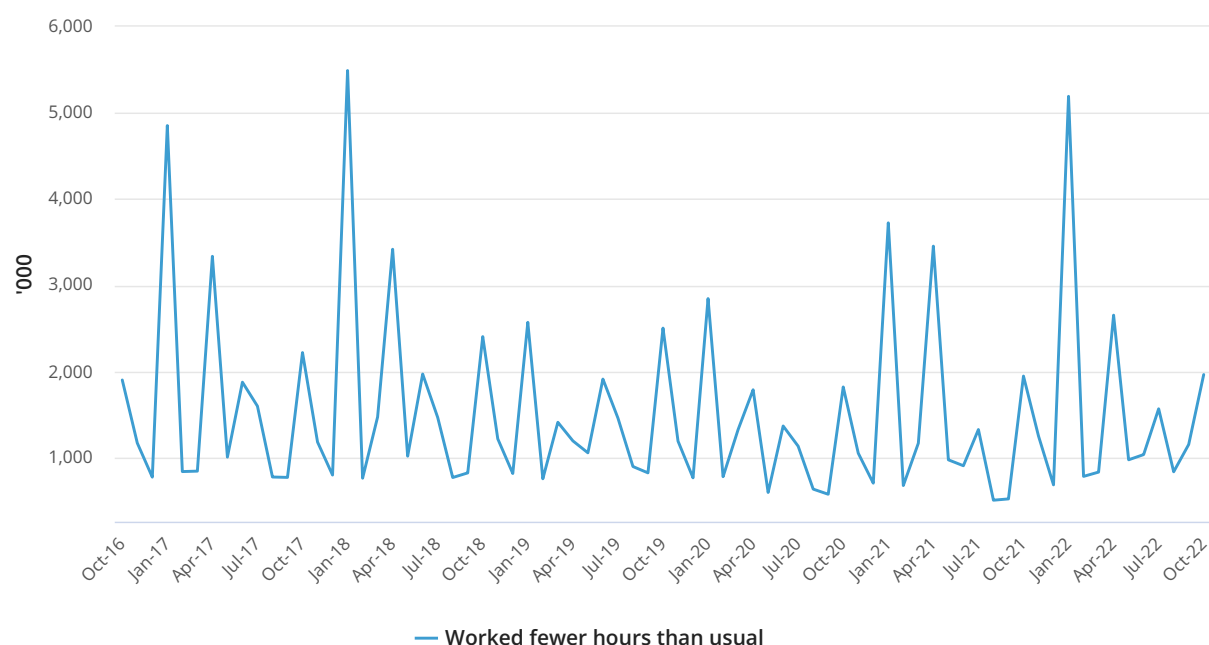


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2b and Table 12

People working fewer hours than usual due to annual leave, flextime or long service leave

Chart 4 shows the number of people working fewer hours due to annual leave, flextime or long service leave increased by 810,700 people to 1,966,700 people, between September and October 2022, consistent with school holidays and public holidays over this time.

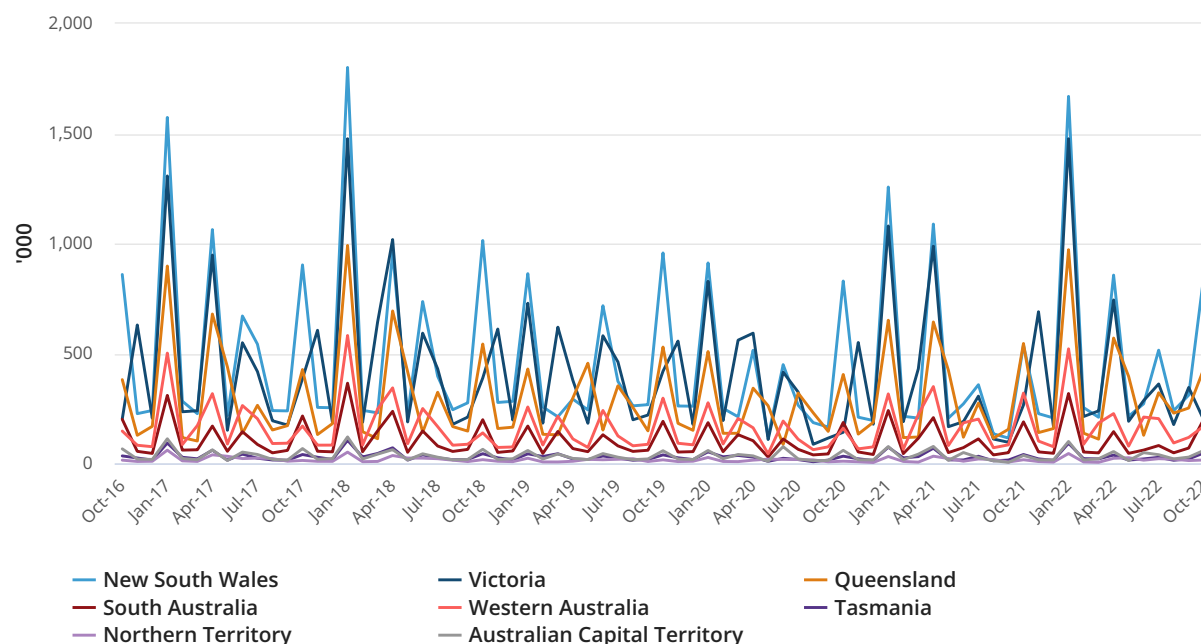
Chart 4: Employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to annual leave, flextime or long service leave, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

Chart 5 shows people who worked fewer hours due to annual leave increased in all states and territories in October 2022, apart from Victoria, where it decreased.

Chart 5: Employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to annual leave, flextime or long service leave, by state and territory, Original

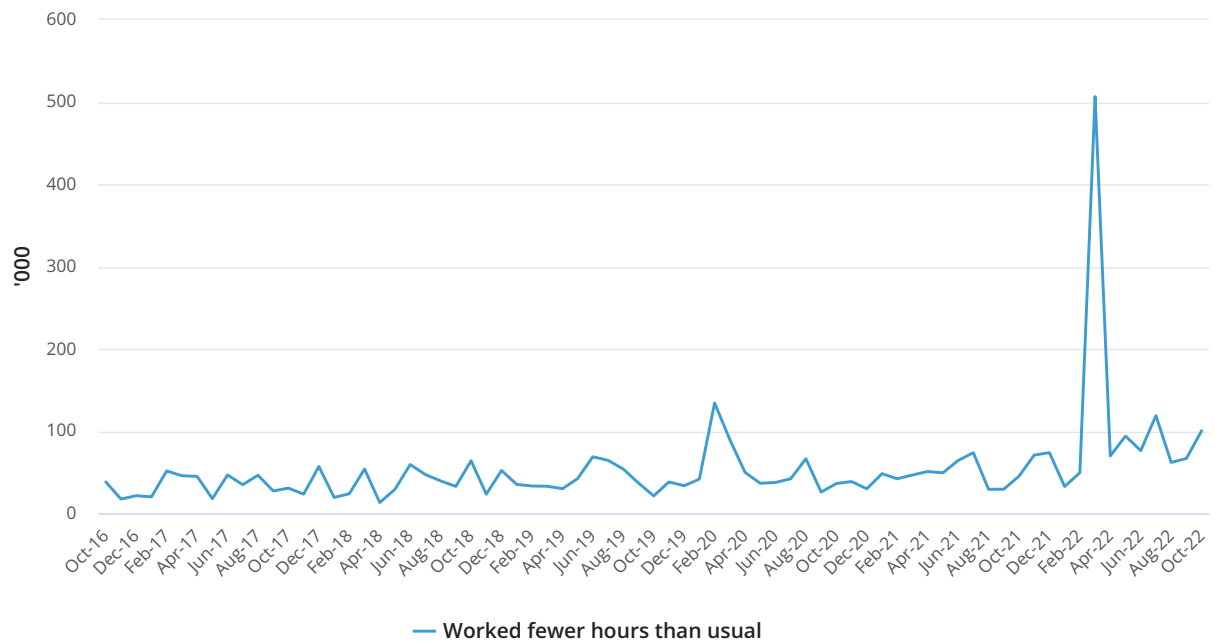


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2b

People working fewer hours than usual due to bad weather or plant breakdown

Chart 6 shows people working fewer hours due to bad weather or plant breakdown increased in October 2022, in line with flooding events across New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania during the reference period. Previous increases from the multiple flooding events in 2022 are also evident.

Chart 6: Employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to bad weather or plant breakdown, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a